Title: Request the Government for the early release of funds for the procurement of paddy in Punjab.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (FARIDKOT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will take just only one minute. I would like to bring to the kind attention of this august House the latest example of how a fraud has been committed on the farmers of Punjab. The Central Government has announced a package of Rs.350 crore to the farmers of Punjab, but till today the Government of Punjab has not got a single paisa. During the discussion on the problems faced by the farmers, they said that the farmers of Punjab have got relief. But I would like to highlight how a cruel joke has been played on the farmers of Punjab. It has been reported only yesterday that the Department of Finance of the Government of Punjab has not got a single paisa to distribute among the farmers.

Sir, I would also like to bring to your kind notice that an amount of Rs. 250 crore was to be paid by the Central Government towards relaxation of specifications in paddy procurement, but not even a single paisa has reached the State Government so far. So, you can imagine the plight of farmers who are indulging in distress sale. This package of Rs.350 crore, which was announced with a big fanfare, has not yet reached the farmers of Punjab. Therefore, I would request, through you, that the Government must reply to this issue and state whether the money would be sent to the Government of Punjab or not. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, this is a matter relating to Rs.350 crore and, so, somebody from the Government should respond to it.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to ask only the concerned Minister, but he is not available now.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (FARIDKOT): Sir, this is a very serious issue. The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs is present here. So, he should respond to this.

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोा कुमार गंगवार) : महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने सवाल उठाया है कि पंजाब के किसानों को सहायता नहीं मिली है, इसके बारे में मैं संबंधित मंत्री को अवगत कराऊंगा और आवश्यक कार्यवाही करने के लिए निवेदन करूंगा।